..THE..

CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

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A FEW NOTES ON REVENUES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The imperforate and part perforate condition of the first issue U. S. Revenues may be accounted for by the hurry with which they were prepared. Congress had passed a war measure levying a stamp tax upon legal instruments and other documents and there was little time before the law went into effect for the preparation of the large variety of stamps required. It was creditable to the contractors that no serious errors were made. Later, the demand was so great that they could not afford to reject sheets of stamps because they had been run through the perforating machine too many times and were double perforated. These double perforated stamps are not very uncommon and are generally found in the case of the most plentiful varieties, these having been produced in the greatest numbers and consequently with the greatest haste and the least care. I think that three or four times the price of the ordinary stamp is enough to pay for these oddities.

Requisitions for stamps came in from all parts of the loyal States, and supplies were sent, some of which included nearly the whole issue of a single variety. Instead of dividing up a batch of stamps among the different sections of the country and sub-stations from which stamps were distributed, the bulk of it would be sent to one place and if no more of that kind were issued, the use of that particular stamp would be confined to the one locality. Thus, almost all the $20 P. of W. imperforate now in collections orginally came from California. More specimens have been found on the Pacific coast in recent years, it is said, than in all the East. This probably indicates that many of the rarest revenues are to be sought, each in a particular vicinity of its own. But knowledge of this, if anyone has it, must be a trade secret.

The genuineness of imperforate revenues may be determined to some extent by the date which was usually written or stamped upon them. In 1862, no stamps were perforated and most stamps used in 1863 were imperforate, but stamps of later date need not necessarily be pronounced clipped on this account. I have seen a pair of imperforate 50c P. of W. dated 1863. These probably were remainders which had been kept for two or three years before being used. Width of margin is deceptive, for the stamps were often irregularly perforated, sometimes so as to show portions of adjoining stamps both above and below.

After a year or two, it was found to be both inexpedient and unnecessary to require that the stamps should bear inscriptions corresponding with the names of the documents to which they were attached, and thereafter they were used indiscriminately. The engravers, since it was no longer necessary to provide every variety of stamp, retired some plates and dies and printed no more stamps from them. This restricted their issue and made them rarer than the others. The playing card and proprietary stamps were always required to be used for those purposes only, however, and this is the reason for their general scarcity. I am not aware whether the 6 cent proprietary is rare because there was little use for that value, or because it was early retired. Perhaps both reasons operate.

During the early '70's, a number of revenues were issued on a very thick paper. In fact, there are two thicknesses of thick paper. They are easily distinguished from the ordinary papers, but may be tested in this way: double the paper between the thumb and finger; if it will crease easily, it is the thin paper, but if there seems to be considerable resistance, it is the thick, hard variety. Lists have been attempted of the varieties printed on this paper, but new discoveries are continually being made.

It is said that revenues are soon to be catalogued both unused and used. Heretofore, unused specimens have been obtainable for a mere fraction of the face value on account of the fact that the government does not redeem them, but there is such a limited source of supply that they are bound to be high priced. A distinction must be made between uncancelled and unused revenues. Although the users of the stamps were at first very careful to cancel them well, later on they became less so, and many stamps are to be found on the original documents bearing no cancellation whatever. This is particularly true of the lower denominations.

It is said of the 6 cent Proprietary that it was used almost solely upon two or three medicines, and that there are Commercial travelers who know these medicines. In the course of their tours they visit old-established drug-stores and inquire for them, and thus, without exciting too much suspicion on the part of the druggists, sometimes secure the rara-avis, the gem of the first water, the 6 cent proprietary.

The stamps printed upon blanks for taxable documents, are destined soon to obtain recognition. By far the commonest are two or three varieties imprinted on bank checks, but the same kind of impression has been found on blanks for receipts and other documents. These stamps bear the same relation to adhesive revenue stamps that stamped envelopes bear to adhesive postage stamps, and are fully as collectable; they should be collected entire, also. Some firm obtained the right from the government to print this stamped paper: Large sheets of bank check paper were imprinted at regular intervals with some such design as a large diamond with head of Liberty and the words, "U. S. Inter. Revenue, 2 cents." The banks then purchased this paper and it was cut up into slips of the regular bank check size, each bearing one impression of the stamp. These were printed with the formula for a blank bank check. After the revenue stamp tax went out of effect, banks had their stock of checks redeemed, and they were rubber stamped to that effect, and then used in the course of business. Thus, the stamped checks are to be found surcharged "Redeemed," "Cancelled," etc. Perhaps another generation of philatelists will even collect these.

The Pennsylvania Philatelist.

HALIFAX NOTES.

The N.S. remainders is the one topic of conversation here, and collectors almost unanimously unite in condeming

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WM. R. ADAMS, Editor and Manager.

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BUSINESS OFFICE.

9½ ADELAIDE ST. EAST, TORONTO, ONT.

ONE everywhere hears of the great demand for revenues. They are THE fashion. If you have never collected revenues of Canada, you should see them. Ask for them and you will find very few dealers have much of a stock. This alone should prove the wisdom of buying now, as there are probably not ten complete collections in existence.

REMINISCENES.

A copy of the "Boys Herald," published at St. Johns, New Brunswick, in 1876, gives one a slight glimpse into collecting at that day.

A Mr. Wineburgh of New York, has an advertisement stating he wanted to buy Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick stamps at one dollar per hundred. Tempting I dare say at that date, but—.

Another New York dealer offers Treasury sets at 6 cents; War sets at 20 cents; and, Navy sets at 45 cents.

N. F. Seebeck, of "chromo" fame has a half column in which to announce his wares and offers wholesale lots of foreign stamps by 100 and 1000.

"W. C. Stone & Co.," of Springfield, Mass., have sets of War department for sale at 50 cents.

A St. John dealer offers Newfoundland pence issues for $1.20, Prince Edward Island, for 90 cents complete

The contents are very newsy, and while the paper claims a circulation of 1500 copies, its advertising rates are but 1 cent a line—very, very cheap. Nowadays publishers charge about 50 cents an inch, but where they to sell their space at foregoing rates, I am afraid bankruptcy would overtake many earlier than usual.

THE VICAR.

(Continued from 1st page.)

the secrecy maintained by the syndicate and the exorbitant prices asked. The feeling is general that the prices must come down, and the disposition is to wait a while before buying.

Your correspondant came across Mr. J. R. Findlay the other day. Mr. Findlay will be remembered in connection with his former publication "The Canada Stamp and Coin Journal" which he published in this city some eight years ago. I am pleased to say that Mr. Findlay still retains his interest in matters philatelic, and it is just possible that his old activity may be revived at no distant day.

Halifax wants the '97 D.P.A. convention, and is willing to work to that end. Halifax may seem a long way off to you people in Ontario, but I am led to believe, after consulting the best authorities, that it is no further from Toronto to Halifax, than it is from Halifax to Toronto

The "Canadian number" of the Philatelic Free Lance is out and is a most praiseworthy effort on the part of editor Morris. See here, Weldon, you made a "mistook." I have only edited one paper so far, not two, don't make it worse than it is, even though I am about to again take up the editorial quill.

We are having a little daily newspaper controversy down here just now. The "Recorder" and "Daily Echo" had a little paragraph about the appointment of R. Hill to the resident vice presidency and credited Mr. Hill with founding the D.P.A. and also stating that the D.P A. was organized on the 14th September last. After diagnosing the case carefully, I pronounced it a case of common "leg pulling" but was surprised to see the matter taken up by Mr. Peckham, a prominent dealer of this city. who enlightened the public as to the D.P.A. and philately in general.

I referred some weeks back to the color of the current 3c Newfoundland, and now it comes in still another shade. I have carefully studied the reports from the meteoralogical bureau to see if the changes corresponded to those of the weather but they do not seem to agree. I am now looking up the exports and imports, to see if the "balance of trade" is cause of these inexplicable changes.

The "Halifax Philatelic Magazine" is now being mailed. Our ad. in the C P.M. has brought us a stack of post cards a yard high, requesting the inevitable sample copy. If these requests keep on coming in, we shall have to order another 15,000(?) to meet the demand. However we are comforted by the assurance that all those who ask for a sample copy will subscribe; this is a pleasing thought to us, and those who are doubtful have no faith in human nature. What would anyone want with a sample copy who did not yearn to subscribe? NIT.

A. M. MUIRHEAD.

STYLES OF COLLECTING.

How do you collect? or more properly speaking perhaps would be to ask in what style do you collect.

As there are many styles, as it were, a brief description of the most used of which, one or more is your pet hobby in collecting, will not be out of place. There are the Artistic, the Fashionable, the Scientific and the World-Girdler styles. The World-Girdler (to begin where I left off in last sentence) is the collector who only desires one of a series or set of every country in the world, as he sees or at least thinks he sees the utter impossibilty of making anything like a complete collection. This style has latterly been on the increase among older people just starting in.

The Scientific — is he who collects, maybe, the stamps of only one country, but defines all the varieties so clearly that no stamp has been printed, no watermark used, or plate or special kind of paper made that he has not in his collection or knows all about it if not there. This style of collector is mostly known as a specialist of which there are a great number in Canada and the United States, as also in other parts of the world, but I believe there are more of that class on this continent, than the rest of the world combined, since there are more varieties and branches of collectable stamps (in America) than there seems to be, so far as my observation goes, than outside of it. In this style of collecting there are quite a lot of fads which is out of the general line; such as the collecting of original covers and entire sheets made up of specimens of a stamp acquired singly and placed on sheets of paper in such a way as to reproduce an exact pane or plate.

The Fashionable style is the collector who starts up a collection when a boom is on, as for instance, a great number never so much as thought of stamps in Canada until a few years ago when they heard of the rapid advance in the price of stamps which had before been classed as worthless or next thing to worthless. These collectors, or a large number (I may speak from my own experience) of them followed the Canadian Fashion as it were by next taking to the stamps of Australia, the boom in these having the

following year or so developed into a gigantic mania so to speak, This was next followed by a boom in West Indian stamps and so on until at present writing the fashion atmosphere is hanging over the Southern Republic of South America, but which will before the month of March I think, feel the effect of a strong undercurrent and move to Southern and Eastern Africa. Some collectors of this style have no stamps in their albums but what had been in fashion during their time of collecting and may tell you that they think that a better system, than to commence with the 1d Great Briatn 1840 and work up.

The Artistic style are those who collect for the beautiful art and design they can see in stamps; this field at the present time has a very large scope, and is being pretty well covered by a class or style of collectors which up to ten or fifteen years ago had but a very few issues of what are now known as works of art or reproductions of some old master, but still we have not so many that we can crow too loud about. There are some fine designs in the recent issues of the world in general but South and (1890-5) Central America (Seebecks) are the most gaudy.

The stamps of this style when mounted in a blank album very fine effect can often be made in the way of design shapes.

There is still another style which I did not bring into this article: that is the Antiquarian Style. He is the man who only "saved" old stamps and has still in an old book some of the very first issues of many countries, and that is all he wants being satisfied that as they are old and pasted or glued down tight they are better than all the new notions.

FRANK H. BEST.

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CANADA

		Cat. Price.	My Price.
1851	3d red, laid paper	1 50	90
1852	— wove paper	35	19
	— — unused	4 00	2 00
	6d, large margins and a fine copy		5 50
	6d, fair copy	5 00	3 25
1857	½d pink, good copies	4 00	2 00
	½d pink, pair		5 75
	½d pink, very fine	4 00	3 00
1858	3d ribbed	2 50	90
	½d pink, perforated	8 50	5 25
	½d pink, perforated, unused, little soiled	12 00	6 00
	3d red, perforated	3 50	1 75
	3d red, perforated, RIBBED, very fine	20 00	12 00
1859	5c vermilion, VARIETY, fine	15 00	9 00
	2c pink, unused	2 50	2 00
	12½c green, unused	2 50	2 00
	17c blue	1 50	1 00
1868	1c brown-red, watermarked	2 00	1 50
1870	1c brown-red, laid paper, unused	40 00	22 00
	1c brown-red, laid paper, used, fine	15 00	10 00
	3c red, laid paper	5 00	2 25
1875	8c blue registered, very fine copies	2 50	1 80
1880	5c vermilion Envelope, entire, used, fine		1 00
1890	3c WOVE PAPER, Envelope, entire, used.	5 00	1 50

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

1865	1c orange, used	3 50	1 75
	2c blue, used	5 00	2 50
	3c rose, used	2 50	1 25
	4c green, used	5 00	2 50
	6c black, used	5 00	2 50
	12c mauve, used	6 00	3 00
	3c, error, rare	5 00	2 75

UNITED STATES POSTAGE

1847	5c brown (original cover, 60c)	85	50
1851	5c brown, very fine	11 00	9 00
	10c green	1 00	65
1855	5c brown, type II	2 50	1 75
	10c green	50	27
	24c lilac	4 50	3 00
1861	5c brown	40	25
	30c orange	50	40
	90c blue, fine	3 50	3 00
1868	1c blue, embossed	1 25	65
	2c black, embossed	25	14
1869	3c blue, no embossing, used		3 00
	10c yellow, unused, corner stamp		3 75
	15c brown and blue, fine	1 75	1 50
	24c green and purple	7 50	5 00
1872	24c purple	2 00	1 35
	90c carmine	1 00	80
1873	10c brown unused (Cont)	1 00	70

MISCELLANEOUS

Newfoundland, 4d lake, entire sheet	20 00	11 00
" 6d lake, "	20 00	11 00
Quebec Law Stamps, $10, $20, $30	155 00	35 00
" " " $10, $20, $30, 1890 issue.	85 00	20 00

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	2c orange	04
	5c blue	08
	10c black	15
1890	½c black	01
	3c slate	05
	6c deep pink	09
	12c puce brown	18

NEW ISSUES. 1896 UNUSED.

Barbados, ½p	02
Brit. South Africa, ½p	03
" " " 1p	05
" " " 2p	10
Chamba, 1½a	08
" 2 a	15
Cyprus, 30pa	06
" 1pia	06
" 2pia	12
" 4pia	25
" 6pia	35
" 12pia	70
Falkland Islands, 1p	05
" " 2p	12
" " 9p	35
" " 18a	50
Figi Islands, 1p	05
Gibraltar, 20c	08
" 2pcs	75
Grenada, 1p	05
Gwalior, 2½a	15
Johore, 1c	02
" 2c	04
" 3c	06
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" 2½p	10

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